## Meeting Notes

**Improving Student Learning at Scale Team Meeting**

June 4th, 1pm-4pm

ESD 113, Olympia

**Attendees (listed alphabetically by first name):**

Bill More (State Board for Community and Technical Colleges), Rep. Chris Reykdal (Legislature), Chris Barron (Partnership for Learning), David Brenna (Professional Educator Standard’s Board), Robin Munson (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction), Marcie Maxwell (Governor’s Office), Sarah Silverman (National Governor’s Association), Scott Seaman (Association of Washington School Principals), Tom Fitzsimmons (Independent Colleges of Washington)

WSAC Staff- Anne Messerly, Noreen Light, Randy Spaulding

**Overview**

* Welcome and Introductions
* Smarter Balanced Assessment Feedback
* Next Steps and Plan for 2015
  + Review ISLS Final Report Discussion Questions
  + Decide if ISLS should continue its work
  + Determine next area of focus
* Wrap-up

*All meeting materials for this meeting are available on our* [*Wiki*](http://improvingstudentlearningatscale.wikispaces.com/January+6+Meeting)*.*

**Welcome and Introductions**

WSAC reviewed the agenda and introduced a special guest at our meeting, Sarah Silverman from the National Governor’s Association (NGA). The meeting goals were to decide if the group would like to continue through 2015 and provide input on questions for Washington’s final report to the NGA.

**Smarter Balanced Assessment Feedback**

* There is confusion among students, families, and educators about what “placement” means in regards to the postsecondary placement agreements for the Smarter Balanced assessments (SBA). Some believe placement means admissions, or don’t understand the difference between the two.
* Q: Will the SB scores be on a student’s HS transcript? This would definitely provide an inventive for students to take the test
* One of the reasons students are opting out of the SBA is because the SBA is around the same time as other tests, such as Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate.
* Right now, we can only estimate the refusal rate in Washington. We think it is about 50% of 11th graders are refusing to take the exam. We will know the statewide refusal rate July 1st
* ReadyWA is being proactive in response to this through op-eds, tele-town halls, and putting information about the SBA in students “Back to School” packets.
* OSPI has scores early to mid-July, August 5- SBE standard setting, and August 17- press release

**ISLS Final Report Discussion Questions**

[*Click here to view Report Requirements and Reflection Questions*](http://improvingstudentlearningatscale.wikispaces.com/file/view/Final%20Report%20Template.pdf/553603646/Final%20Report%20Template.pdf)

* **What factors in your state make advancing college and career-readiness standards particularly challenging? How have you used this project to address those challenges? What challenges remain and how have you planned to address them?**
  + WA is lacking a definition of career readiness
  + What does the future look like for students who don’t graduate high school or continue onto postsecondary education?
  + We’re in a time of change
    - We have new standards but the support work we’re doing is good
    - Teachers have experienced a lot of change
  + Fact that WA has exit exams
    - Graduation requirements
      * Students who receive a CAA vs. CIA
    - Confusion about requirements and exit exams changing each year
  + How do we talk to students and parents of students who score a 1 on the Smarter Balanced?
  + What is the ‘Basic education’ definition
    - Student 18+, score of “1”, BEA at CTCs?
  + Education complicated because of silos systems, compliance, and regulations
* **What factors in your state are advantageous to advancing college and career-readiness standards? How have you used these advantages to leverage support for improving college and career readiness?**
  + WA has a lot of data, however we need to make better use of data
  + Accountability
  + College and career ready diploma and standards
  + TPEP- format and collaboration
  + History of cross-sector relationships
  + We’ve done lots of college readiness work
  + Strong early learning system
* **What are the steps your state needs to take next? How will your state address these steps OR What is your state’s sustainability strategy? What forms of assistance will be helpful to your state going forward?**
  + ReadyWA coalition
    - Build an infrastructure around ReadyWA communication materials, eg videos
  + Communication needs (external)
    - Communication after score release
    - Helping parents communicate with their kids- each out to parents to explain test and significantly improve their understand of the system of testing and their role
    - Infographic- have pathway options start early (7th or 8th grade), maybe earlier? Early learning
    - Videos
      * A “Student voices” video
        + Career focused student video “What I wish I knew then”
      * Real achievement- Kentucky’s “Real Progress” phrase resonates
    - Postsecondary placement agreements
    - Pathways for low scoring students
    - Create consistent, common messaging/ conversations among partner organizations at conferences
      * WA educators Conference, Richland August 18-19
      * WSSDA
      * Counselor Conference, June
      * PTA May 20-22 Yakima
      * State PTA Legislative Assembly Oct 24
    - Tools for legislators- handouts talking points
  + Communication (internal)
    - Stronger link/stance from Higher ed- Higher ed should weigh in more (HE often hesitant to get involved in K-12 work)
  + Celebrate our victories
  + We lack analytics we need to “tell a story”-- we need more research to understand context
  + Deepen and broaden communication and advocacy- parent, but also within educational sectors
  + Why are we on this path? Address communication needs to continue local conversations
  + Parent engagement
    - WAKids
    - College Bound
  + TPEP- principals saying its the best conversation they’ve had with teachers
  + There has been a focus on accessibility and preparation; we should shift the focus to affordability
  + Use of K-12 teacher partners as advocates or spokespeople to get credibility
  + Cross-sector exchange and understanding; one voice weighing in on policy
  + Tag onto the positive messaging of Learning first alliance
  + Should testing occur outside of regular instructional time?
  + Highlight “bright lights” districts where testing and communication goes well
* **What benefits did your state realize from participation in this project? What were the project’s successes and challenges?**
  + Having all sectors and groups represented in a single forum/group has been so helpful
  + Postsecondary agreements for all sectors (public, private, 2 yr, 4 yr)
  + Communication pieces
    - Infographic
    - 2 handouts
    - Videos
  + Cross-state meetings
    - Learning from other states
    - Team time
    - Relationship building
* Of the meetings, support, and financial resources provided to your state, what was most helpful? What could be improved in future projects?
  + WSAC- provide facilitation, convening the group
  + NGA staff support
  + Cross-state meetings
  + More funds for communications would be helpful because we did reply on ReadyWA to support some work and provide additional resources
  + Internal communication was helpful for us to stay on track and deal with “bumps”

**Continuation and Wrap-up**

There seemed to be consensus around the room that Washington should apply for the additional $25,000 from the NGA to address the communication needs mentioned above. The Governor’s Office and OSPI in particular said this work was very important to them. The group discussed a possible cross-state convening to share lessons learned amongst the early adopter states, and to discuss testing schedules, communications, score reporting and reactions, and technology.

The NGA will get back to us on this.

The group decided about 2-3 more team meetings this year sounds reasonable

* Perhaps these could be coordinated with ReadyWA so they are back to back
* At the very least, WSAC staff will attend both meetings to avoid overlap
* Hold one meeting the last week of August or the beginning of September

WSAC staff will be in touch with you relating to the dates for the next meetings, and will send out Doodle Polls.

*For questions and/or comments, please contact:*

Anne Messerly

Washington Student Achievement Council

(360) 753-7855

annem@wsac.wa.gov